

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
AID-05 IO-13 /075 W

----- 011419 /20

R 151422Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9136

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 6031

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, DR  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN DR

1. WITH RELEASE LAST WEEK OF TWO EXTREME LEFTISTS WHO HAD COMPLETED PRISON SENTENCES, GODR RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS FOR RECENT TRENDS IN HANDLING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. RELEASED LEFTISTS ARE FARUK IDELFONSO MIGUEL CASTILLO AND WINSTON VARGAS VALDEZ WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AND HAD SERVED SENTENCES OF FIVE AND THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT RESPECTIVELY. BOTH ARE MILITANT MEMBERS OF THE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD), A FAR-LEFT MARXIST POLITICAL GROUPING WITH A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE.

2. UNDER DOMINICAN LAW, ADDITIONAL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH PROVEN CRIMES BUT NOT BROUGHT AGAINST DEFENDANTS AT TIME OF ORIGINAL TRIAL CAN BE PRESENTED LATER. GODR HAS OCCASIONALLY USED THIS PREROGATIVE TO RETAIN CUSTODY OF TERRORISTS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PERSONS. ACCORDINGLY ITS WITHDRAWAL OF CHARGES AND RELEASE OF THESE TWO PRISONERS BROUGHT FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS. UNEXPECTED ONE CAME FROM USUALLY CRITICAL DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCD). WHILE DECLARING THAT GOVT. SHOULD TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PCD SAID COUNTRY HAD RECENTLY MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDING OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. SECOND SURPRISE STATEMENT CAME FROM ORDINARILY ACERBIC EX-PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH WHO, WHILE PROPOSING THE RELEASE OF OTHER PRISONERS, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS ON PATH OF PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: IN SEVERAL RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND  
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EMBOFFS, DOMINICAN LEADERS HAVE BROACHED SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, USUALLY IN CONTEXT OF THEIR SPECULATION ABOUT POLICIES OF A CARTER

ADMINISTRATION, OR HAVE RESPONDED READILY TO INVITATIONS TO DISCUSS  
IT. THESE CONVERSATIONS HAVE PROBABLY BEEN RELAYED TO OTHER  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS IN RELATIONS OF U.S. WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.  
WITHDRAWAL OF ADDITIONAL CHARGES AND PROMPT RELEASE OF CASTILLO  
AND VARGAS MAY BE RELATED TO SUCH AWARENESS.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN DR  
**TAGS:** SHUM, DR  
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